7: Shklovsky --246-248 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut-1-2
116, 756, 776, 779

"Up to the begining of the eighteenth century the Bouriats, like all the Turko-Mongolian race, had the Horro religion, known to us as 'Shamanism.' This religion is also professed by Ostiaks, Samoyedes Yuraks, Yakuts, Lamouts and Tougouse.

In the time of the dynasty of Di-tyn, Shamanisn [247] was introduced into China under the name of Tyau-Shen, but, though it had no success there, it is important to mention the fact, because in 1747 there were published in the Manchurian language the regulations of the rites and ceremonies of Shamanisn, the only printed catechism of the old Mongol religion. There is also in existence an English translation of this catechism. I shall try to give briefly the substance of this religion.

The world is ruled by a passionless god, 'The drowsy Spirit of the Eight-sided Universe'; he has neither shape nor form; he is neither life nor death. I could not get even from the most learned Shaman a more definite statement of this belief. Involuntarily the thought comes into one's mind that this is probably a vague, shadowy idea of Brahma, the dark mind of the savage being unable to form a clearer conception of an abstract idea. The world is ruled by the 'Bald Father' (in Bouriat terminology), who cannot be angered, and who cannot be entreated , as his decisions are unchangeable. Therfore, it is absolutely useless to offer prayers and sacrifices. This god is deeply interested in all that concerns man; he is stern, or, more accurately speaking, powerful, for the Mongolian mind cannot imagine attributes such as goodness and mercy, but only omnipotence and

impotence, The Yakut name 'Almighty' quite shows this idea.

Arsin Dolai (the chief of the seven Oulooss of the wicked spirits, Abaghi) sends all evils and illness upon mankind, and the essence of the Horro religion is how to discover the means of propitiating this terrible god who afflict men so grievously, mot in [248] revenge for their misdoings, but in the plenitude of his power."

24:Wrangell--39 [3] G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 177, 771, 779

"The Jakuti have almost all been baptized; but, though a part of the New Testament, the Ten Commandments, and several of the canons of the Church, have been translated into their language, as yet the greater number have no idea of the principles and doctrines of Christianity; and their schamans and the superstitions of heathenism still retain their hold upon their minds."

44: Gilder --183-184 J-2 (1882) 1883 Yakut
116, 177, 779, 788

"Not only the Russian inhabitants but the Yakouts, Tungusians, Lamoots and Tchouktchis who reside near the settlements [RCH: around the Kolyma River] are all equally religious. It seemed to me to be a most convenient religion [RCH: i. e. the Greek religion] for it consisted, as far as I could see, in crossing one's self and bowing before the pictures and in fasting upon a fish diet where there was scarcely anything but fish to eat. It is a beautiful religion and abounds in affectionate salutes. All these forms are particularly dear to the Yakout, and never omitted, at least in the presence of a white man. After prayers every one kisses every one else three times--once on each cheek and once [184] on the mouth. This is universal--men, women and children, servants and masters, soldiers and their commanding officers. It is neither the ecstatic nor paroxysmal kiss, nor yet the Platonic, but simply the kiss of devotion. The entire household join in prayers, all standing before the chromos of saints with metallic rays attached to their heads in the most realistic fashion, and cross themselves and bow in unison, unless some one particularly devout prostrates himself upon the floor and kisses the planks in the ferver of his religious zeal."